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2011 PERSON OF THE YEAR

# IT HAD TO BE YOU

- Steve Jobs died in October, but the gadgets he gave us changed us forever
- Metro readers vote the technology icon as 2011's biggest newsmaker {page 06}

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HER DIVORCE WAS THE BIGGEST GOSSIP ITEM OF 2011? YUCK!
**POP CULTURE** {page 11}

THE FUNNIEST THING WE SAW ON THE BIG SCREEN ALL YEAR
**FILMS** {pages 12-13}

IN A YEAR OF EPIC CHOKES, SHADY IS CITY'S TOP ATHLETE
**SPORTS** {pages 26-31}

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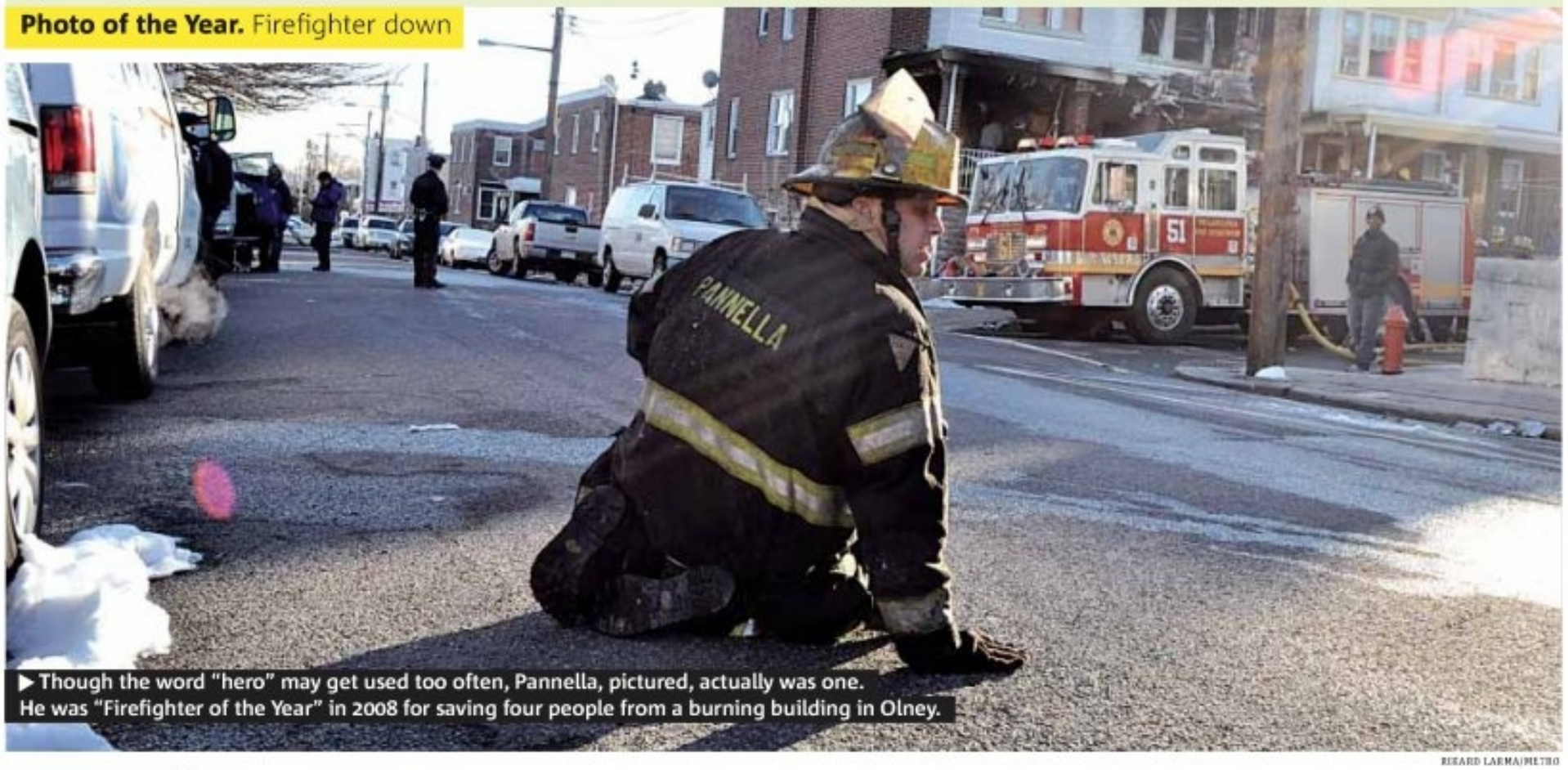
**Photo of the Year.** Firefighter down




▶ Though the word "hero" may get used too often, Pannella, pictured, actually was one. He was "Firefighter of the Year" in 2008 for saving four people from a burning building in Olney.

BERARD LARMA/METRO

## Last glimpse of a fallen hero

The scene for the photo is where two of Philadelphia's 32 fire deaths in 2011 (through Dec. 22) occurred, a rowhouse off North Mascher Street in Olney. A tired firefighter from Ladder 29, David Pannella, rested in chilly February sunlight. Sadly, seven months later, the 19-year veteran died suddenly. He left behind a wife, a daughter and a hero's legacy. METRO/BXM

# What a year! 2011 redux

**There were plenty of local headlines in 2011 that dominated — and did not involve Occupy Philly. Here are some of the biggest. And some of the most heinous.**

▶ **Joe Frazier dies:** The legendary boxer and Philadelphia icon lost a battle with liver cancer. Politicians and boxing greats, including Muhammad Ali, attended the funeral service where the Rev. Jesse Jackson made a public push for a Frazier statue.

▶ **Archdiocese shakeup:** Cardinal Justin Rigali retired in the wake of charges against three Catholic priests and a teacher with sexually assaulting several boys. Archbishop Charles Chaput was appointed to head the local archdiocese.

▶ **Mumia ruling:** Following 30 years of appeals, Mumia Abu-Jamal finally leaves death row as prosecutors choose not to convene a new sentencing hearing. Supporters for the former journalist are still pushing for his release.

▶ **Population gains:** Figures from the 2010 census show Philadelphia has reclaimed its spot as the fifth most-populated city thanks to the first gains in 60 years. Mayor Nutter pokes his chest out and the GPTMC has one more marketing hook.

▶ **Ackerman's departure:** Arlene Ackerman was ushered out as schools superintendent (with a fat paycheck in hand) after a tumultuous three years. Ackerman oversaw massive cuts to close a $629 million deficit, which basically came as a result of poor planning on the district's part.

**SOLOMON D. LEACH**
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## Philly villainy

▶ **Linda Ann Weston and two co-defendants** are accused of holding several mentally challenged people captive in deplorable conditions, including a "dungeon" in Tacony, to steal their Social Security checks. Weston's attorney claims she is so out of it that she cannot spell "cat," but she can certainly spell "money."

▶ **James Troutman** is charged with sexually assaulting and murdering 9-year-old Skylar Kauffman and dumping her body in a trash bin outside the Souderton apartment complex where they both lived. Troutman allegedly choked the girl and banged her head on a concrete floor as she cried for help.

▶ **West Philadelphia abortion doctor Kermit Gosnell** allegedly killed several infants by clipping their spinal cords and then stored their body parts in a refrigerator in his office. The "house of horrors" doctor also let untrained staff members perform an untold number of late-term abortions.

▶ **Antonio Rodriguez**, the alleged "Kensington strangler" was busted in January after a month-long manhunt following the murders of three women. Police sources said Rodriguez, then 22, confessed to raping the women after their bodies went lifeless.

▶ **Jerry Sandusky**, the former Penn State assistant football coach, tops our list. The 67-year-old is charged with sexually assaulting 10 boys over a 15-year period. Prosecutors claim Sandusky met the boys through a charity he founded and groomed them with gifts before abusing them.

## In the news

## If you build it ... ?

**People have put a lot of stock in the massive expansion of the Pennsylvania Convention Center, exactly $786 million in state money to be precise. Its long-awaited completion in early 2011 was heralded as generating 280,000 more hotel room stays a year. We'll know by late February if that estimate held up.**

METRO

### Editor's note

This special year-end edition of Metro was printed in advance. Metro will return to its normal publishing schedule on Jan. 3. For breaking news updates, please visit www.metro.us.

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# Occupying our thoughts: For better and worse

**A week after Occupy Wall Street began, a Kutztown University graduate created an 'Occupy Philly' Facebook**
**During 56 days in tents, they learned to love and hate**

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ The leaderless Dilworth Plaza group seem proved at least one thing: They could have used a leader.

## An Occupy lovefest

**1 The Comcast Nine:** The first members to get arrested during an Occupy-sanctioned action: a sit-in at the Comcast Center lobby. Though 15 Occupiers were arrested Oct. 24 for blocking off Eighth Street outside police headquarters, they were not partaking in a protest voted on by the group's general assembly.

**2 Quakers:** Some of the staunchest supporters of the movement (as well as of the Revolutionary War and the creation of Pennsylvania, as Occupy media pointed out), Quakers were a constant presence at the encampment.

**3 Dilworth Plaza's homeless contingent:** Many of the people who had been occupying the Plaza long before October with nowhere else to go became core members.

**4 Rich Negrin, City Managing Director:** Negrin started out as an avid supporter of Occupy's right to self-expression, commending them for exercising their First Amendment rights — mainly through Twitter.

## An Occupy hatefest

**1 Anyone that got stuck in traffic:** There is nothing that angers a Philadelphian more than something coming between them and their dinner/post-work downtime. That happened often downtown during the 56 days.

**2 Other Occupiers:** Much antipathy came from within. The Reasonable Solutions committee was excommunicated from Dilworth after breaking off and signing a city permit to occupy the Municipal Services Plaza with stipulations unacceptable to Occupy Philly as a whole.

**3 Mainstream media:** As time went on, newspapers and TV stations were increasingly accused of getting stories wrong and missing the "point."

**4 Rich Negrin, Managing Director:** Negrin became increasingly frustrated when protesters would not meet with officials and he had no problem being open about it on Twitter. Protesters, in turn, finally did agree to a meeting. The first item on the agenda? Complaining about Negrin's Twitter account.

**ALEX WIGGLESWORTH**
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# Person of the Year: Steve Jobs

**You asked for it, you got it: The man behind the iPhone and iPad named 2011's most influential person Occupy protesters were right behind him**

Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple who died in October after a long battle with cancer, has been named Person of the Year for 2011 by Metro's readers.

In a close second place came the Occupy movement — namely, the 99 percent.

In the three years of this Metro event, voting has never been as high or as competitive. Until the final day of voting, on Dec. 22, the two nominees were running neck and neck.

metro
MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR
2011

▶ Occupiers got arrested.

In the end, it came down to a difference of 25 votes, from the thousands cast by Metro readers.

What clinched it for Steve Jobs, perhaps, was the feeling that his work changed the world forever, while the Occupy protests have dominated the headlines for only months.

As one reader, Eric Burger, put it: "Without the inventions of the iPhone, iPad, Occupy wouldn't have gotten off the ground. Steve Jobs changed lives to be simpler and more pleasant."

The Occupy movement dominated the early stages of voting, but the last five days saw a surge in support for Steve Jobs.

As another reader, Terrence of Cambridge, Mass., said: "Occupy will be back. What they expressed changed the terms of political debate in our country — but will it be forever? Steve Jobs changed the world in so many ways, for always. Steve Jobs — it had to be you." METRO

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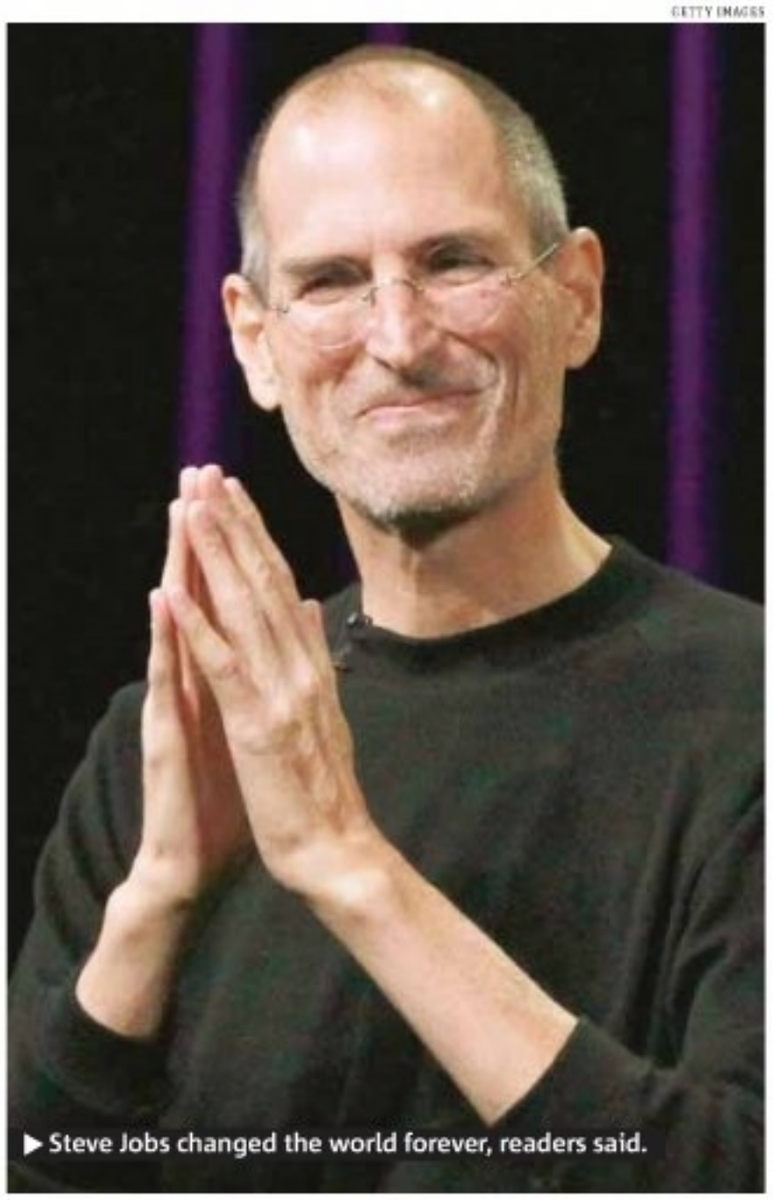
▶ Steve Jobs changed the world forever, readers said.

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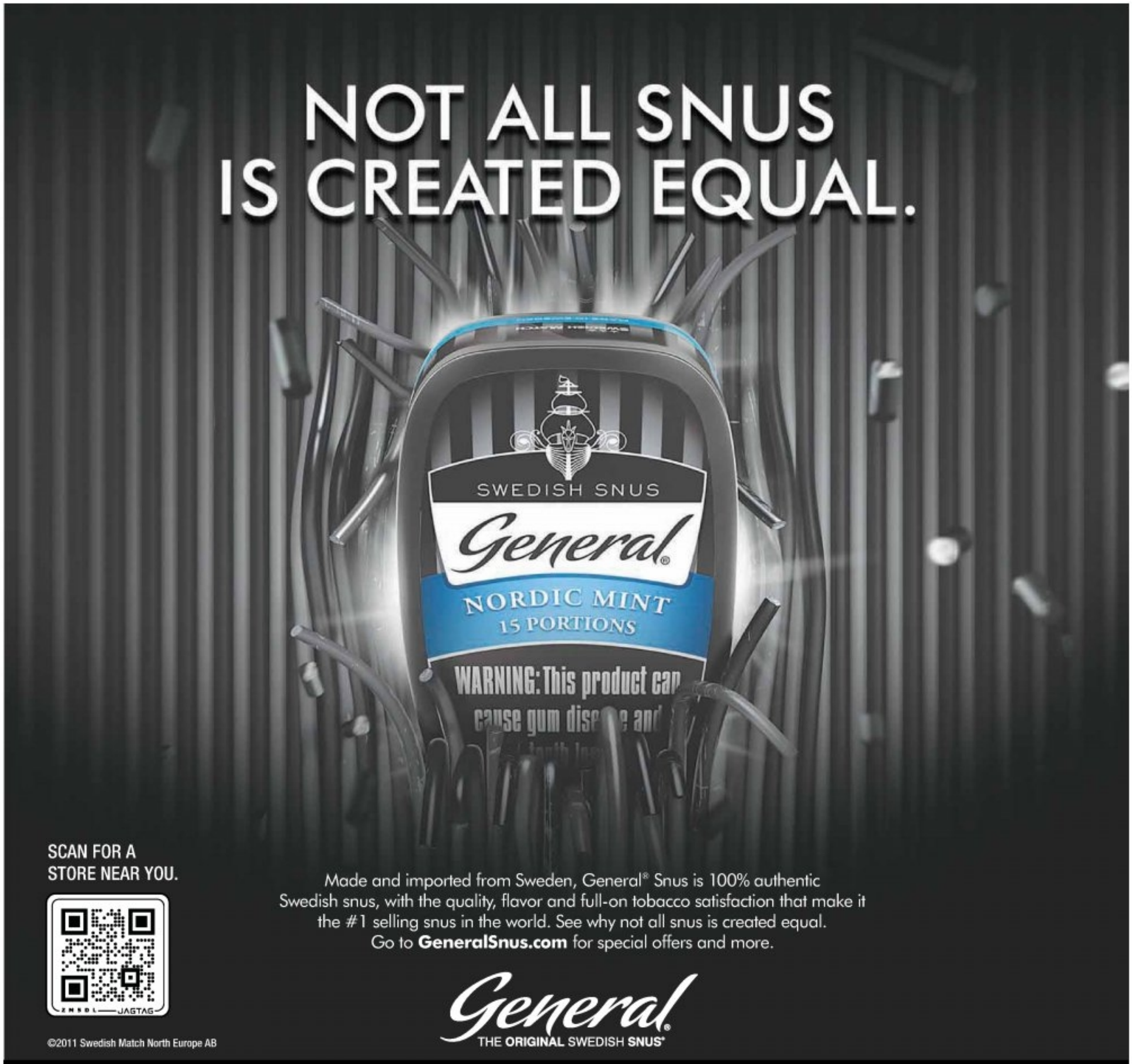
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# Ends (of an era?)

**Among the many deaths of 2011, Osama bin Laden, Iraq War top list Libya, Japan each struggled as well**

## 1 OSAMA + IRAQ WAR

▶ Bin Laden's death was celebrated with street parties, the Iraq War with a collective shrug of the shoulders.

If the 1960s ended with Altamont and the '90s ended on 9/11, then you could make the case that the '00s didn't fully come to a close until this year, when two of the events that best defined that decade — the Iraq War and the hunt for Osama bin Laden — drew to an end. Fittingly for the end of an era marked by disappointment and fear, both ended on something of an anticlimax: Bin Laden was found hiding not in some supervillain's lair but in suburban Pakistan, while the Iraq War finished not with a dramatic victory but with a slow, months-long drawing-down process.

## 2 Libya, Gaddafi

Only in Libya did the global Arab Spring erupt into a full-fledged civil war. The uprising against strongman Muammar Gaddafi — a thorn in the U.S.'s side for four decades — put America in a curious position: How to assist the rebels in overthrowing Gaddafi without becoming embroiled in a third Mideast quagmire? In the end, the Obama administration elected to pursue a constitutionally-dubious air campaign against loyalist forces, gambling that the end of Gaddafi's 40-year reign would outweigh the means. With a lack of Vietnam- or even Iraq-style protests against the short war, the American people seemed to agree.

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## 3 Gabrielle Giffords, Norway shootings

In the wake of the attempted assassination of a congresswoman in January and a Norwegian murder spree in July, we jumped to easy conclusions, blaming inflammatory rhetoric and Islamic terrorists. The thought was almost comforting — if we just wiped out the causes, we could get rid of the effects. When the truth came out, it was more chilling: Both shootings were the random work of deranged schizophrenics. Only in the delusional minds of their perpetrators did the chain of cause-and-effect make any sense.

ATHIT PERAWONGMETHA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Debris

## 4 Japan earthquake, nuclear fear

By the numbers: **8.9 magnitude** earthquake. **30-foot** tsunami. More than **18,000 killed**. Fukushima plant meltdown reached **Level 7** on the International Nuclear Event Sale. **100-1,000 future deaths** predicted after harmful radiation exposure in the area.

## 5 Steve Jobs dead

Under Steve Jobs' leadership, Apple's products felt like the future, but Jobs was something of a throwback: In an economy increasingly devoted to selling intangible "services," here was a man who actually made things. The grief felt upon his death — the sense that some great technocratic paradise was lost — was best summed up by The Onion: "Last American Who Knew What The F— He Was Doing Dies."

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# Outrage across globe

**2011 passed with its fair share of bumps Metro recaps the bumpiest**

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Egyptians faced down tanks, Americans took on banks and the GOP handed out spanks.

**1 Arab Spring**

For years, young people in the Middle East were a simmering cauldron of a demographic with no jobs, no voice and no hope for the future. That cauldron finally bubbled over in 2011 as massive anti-government protests took down dictators in Tunisia and Egypt, won reforms in Jordan, Oman and Yemen and inspired crackdowns in Bahrain and Syria.



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**2 Occupy movement**

Call them what you will — a theatrical stunt, a brave stand, a collective wail from an entitled generation — but at the very least, this fall's Occupy Wall Street protests succeeded in turning America's rising income inequality into a legitimate political issue.

**3 EU fiscal crisis**

After the financial crisis brought the so-called PIIGS countries (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain) to the brink of bankruptcy, a continent-wide split emerged between poor countries angered at harsh austerity measures and rich countries upset at footing the bill for their irresponsible neighbors.

**4 Casey Anthony trial**

Every news cycle needs its sideshows, and none grabbed the attention this year quite like the trial of accused child-killer Casey Anthony. The case fit so well into a predetermined narrative — woman accused of killing kid, media turns on woman, woman alleges sexual abuse in her past — that the entire thing seemed made to air on Court TV. By the day of the verdict, as Anthony was declared not guilty and Nancy Grace took to the airwaves to declare that the devil was dancing, it was as if everyone involved was playing out predetermined roles that would be repeated until the end of time.

**5 Debt ceiling**

Republicans threatened to let the U.S. government default on its national debt rather than raise the debt ceiling as per usual. The game of chicken ended with both parties agreeing to broad budget cuts, but in the ultimate instance of Beltway disfunction the bipartisan "supercommittee" chosen to work out the details announced it had failed at its only goal.

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# YEAR-END 2

# 5 Biggest moments in pop culture

**Kim Kardashian steals the spotlight ● Royals will have a more lasting impact — not just a longer marriage**

## Editors' panel

▶ It's a sad state of affairs when a spoiled sitcom actor and somebody who doesn't even deserve to be famous get more attention for throwing an Internet hissy fit (Sheen) and divorcing some dude (Kardashian), than a gifted singer who left this mortal coil too early. If only **Amy Winehouse** had tiger blood. ● PAT HEALY, MUSIC EDITOR

▶ Tuck this little thought in your pocket: Once upon a time, we didn't think pop culture would ever be (nearly) rid of **Paris Hilton**, either. ● AMBER RAY, FEATURES EDITOR

▶ **Amy Winehouse** is tragic — yes, tragic: Bring it on, "There are wars we should be paying attention to" crowd — and makes me a little wary of talking about anyone else on this list. She obviously had some bigger demons, and even after this was obvious she was an easy gossip target. ● MONICA WEYMOUTH, ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

▶ I would argue that in the long run, it's **Prince William** and **Kate Middleton** that will end up having the most far-reaching impact on pop culture. Just recently on "Saturday Night Live," there was a sketch about Kate and **Pippa Middleton** even though there's been nothing newsworthy about them in months. It just shows how much deeper their impact will be felt. ● HEIDI PATALANO, FILM EDITOR

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Amy Winehouse

▶ **Prince William** and **Kate Middleton** kind of bore me. You can bet when **Prince Harry** gets married, some maid of honor with a slightly above-average rear won't steal the show. But is it just me, or are these sadder than in past years? We need to excommunicate **the Kardashians** ASAP so I can read gossip magazines in peace. ● MW

Kim Kardashian

▶ Re: **The Kardashians**. I guess I'm just shocked by how shocked I was at their "shocking" news of divorce. ● DOROTHY ROBINSON, DEPUTY FEATURES EDITOR

▶ I just expected them to fake it for a solid 18 months like the rest of us normal, greedy, materialistic humans would do. And ... that's a wrap. I will not speak of these people for the remainder of 2011, so help me TMZ. ● MW

## Metro's Top 5

1. Kim Kardashian gets married and divorced in the span of 72 days.
2. Charlie Sheen gets fired, unleashing the unknown power of tiger blood.
3. Amy Winehouse dies at the age of 27.
4. Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher call it quits.
5. Prince William marries Kate Middleton in a fairy-tale royal wedding.

## The Word columnist Dorothy Robinson's Top 5

**Dorothy's thoughts:**
The stories I like most are the ones with legs — ones we can keep writing about day after day. All of these in my Top 5 hit that prerequisite, especially the Kardashian wedding. I can't believe we all (Kim included) wasted so much time on that.

1. Prince William marries Kate Middleton.
2. Kim Kardashian gets married and divorced.
3. Charlie Sheen gets fired and goes crazy.
4. Amy Winehouse dies.
5. Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher split.

2011 in review

## Finding our Top 5 picks

Every December, Metro's Features staffers compile their Top 5 lists, choosing the best in pop culture moments, film, television and music. We average out those selections to come up with the "official" Metro picks for the best of the year — and then fight over each other's choices. How do your favorites add up to ours? Let us know at letters@metro.us.

Charlie Sheen

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# 5 Best films

**Metro's Top 5**

1. "Bridesmaids" (dir. Paul Feig)
2. "Midnight in Paris" (dir. Woody Allen)
3. "Shame" (dir. Steve McQueen)
4. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" (dir. David Yates)
5. TIE: "Beginners" (dir. Mike Mills); "The Help" (dir. Tate Taylor); "Super 8" (dir. J.J. Abrams)

COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL PICTURES

▶ The ladies of "Bridesmaids" made us laugh so hard, we forgot about all those boring Oscar-bait movies.

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# of 2011

## Editors' panel

▶ **"Bridesmaids"** was awesome. One thing I didn't like about it, though, was that **Kristen Wiig** played a baker. Women in romantic comedies play bakers like, 70 percent of the time. It's played out and perpetuates this strangely conventional idea of girliness. ● HP

▶ We're not the only ones who recognized the excellence of **"Bridesmaids"** — a (gasp!) comedy. SAG nominated it for its Ensemble Award, which is pretty much their Best Picture equivalent. It's nice to see an honest portrait of friendship among women — poop jokes and all — get some love. ● AR

▶ Well, I know **"Shame"** isn't going to get the love it deserves when it comes to awards season. All the explicit sex seems to have distracted some of the amazing non-sexy visuals and performances. Director **Steve McQueen** was robbed! ● HP

▶ But really, the only thing controversial to me about this list is that **"The Help"** didn't fare better than **"Midnight in Paris."** ● PH

▶ If **"Midnight in Paris"** swapped release dates with what's considered his first groundbreaking masterpiece, "Annie Hall," **Woody Allen** would still be as highly regarded as he is today. It's that good. I can't argue with this list — except **"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2."** Can I then expect that when **"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn: Part 2"** comes out next year, that it'll end up on the Best Films of 2012 list? True, the "Harry Potter" films are always pretty solid in terms of quality, but I think you're letting sentimentality for the end of the series get in the way of evaluating which films actually had some outstanding artistic merit this year. ● HP

▶ I don't think you can expect **"Twilight"** on the Best of 2012 list because **"Harry Potter"** and "Twilight" aren't on the same wavelength. I think it was **Stephen King** who said, "'Harry Potter' is about confronting fears, finding inner strength and doing what is right in the face of adversity. 'Twilight' is about how important it is to have a boyfriend." But you're right: There could have been improvements to "HP" (the aging of the characters, for one). I think, like **"The Help,"** this is a case of "the book is always better." ● MEREDITH ENGEL, FEATURES WRITER

▶ I don't think it's really a case of "the book was better" here — I've called out of work to finish **"Harry Potter"** books — but this isn't masterful, nuanced literature that shouldn't be touched. What I think people — a wide range of unlikely people who will probably never share anything again — respond to is their quiet, unassuming magic — and that's something the films just haven't been able to capture. "Deathly Hallows: Part 2" is a good movie, the best movie of the franchise, but it's over as soon as the credits role. So, yeah. I probably have some childhood issues to work out. ● MW

▶ I'd like to make the plea that if you haven't seen **"Beginners"** — and it seems like not many people have — to please check it out. All of the performances are exemplary, from **Christopher Plummer** to **Ewan McGregor** to **Cosmo**, a rescued Jack Russell terrier who, as Arthur, holds his own against such big names. I'm getting weepy just thinking about it. ● DR

▶ Yes! This is the one I was trying to Netflix! But I thought it was **Jason Bateman**. And then maybe a precocious kid instead of an insightful dog. Next thing you know **Jennifer Aniston** was there. I ended up watching **"The Switch."** Don't. ● MW

## Film editor Heidi Patalano's Top 5

**Heidi's thoughts:** It's a pity that "Shame," won't get the Best Picture votes it deserves. After only two films, director Steve McQueen has already proven himself to be an auteur in the making. His unconventional, hyper-visual method of storytelling is a breath of fresh air. The best films of the year should be nominated based on how inventive a film is, how much it will influence the films that will be made in the future. Steven Spielberg ("War Horse," "Tintin") may be great at what he does, but he's always putting out the same product.

FOX SEARCHLIGHT PICTURES

▶ Michael Fassbender

1. **"Shame"** (dir. Steve McQueen)
2. **"Melancholia"** (dir. Lars von Trier)
3. **"The Skin I Live In"** (dir. Pedro Almodovar)
4. **"Bridesmaids"** (dir. Paul Feig)
5. **"Drive"** (dir. Nicolas Winding Refn)

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▶ Gaga who? PJ Harvey can rock a weird headdress with the best of them, and make one of the best albums of 2011!

# 2011 in music could have had it allllllll!

## Editors' panel

PAT BEALY/METRO

▶ Cults were a cult hit amongst the Metro features staff.

▶ One thing I want to ask you all about **Adele**: Did you listen to "21" tons, or just recognize it for its indisputable awesomeness? I ask because I put the album at No. 1 because it's f—ing great! But I probably only listened to the whole thing like 10 times. ● PH

▶ I don't think anyone would deny that she has a pretty wild voice, but I've never been able to listen to an entire **Adele** song all the way through, let alone her whole album. She's like Ambien for me: Really lovely for five minutes, but then there's the unsatisfying sleep and need to feel again and/or eat a bagel. ● MW

▶ You don't have to listen to the full **Adele** album — nearly every song is bound to be on the radio or a commercial or TV show or your "He Was A Jerk Any-way" playlist. ... And no complaints on that, either. ● AR

▶ Where's the love for my favorite pants-dropping party-rockers, **LMFAO**? ● ME

▶ I think if it weren't for "Super Bass," I'd say **LMFAO** made the year's best dance tune. You know what's amazing though? Did anybody even list **Gaga**? Did we all leave her out because we thought it would've been a conflict of interest because she was a Metro editor for a day? Or was "Born This Way" just a big marketing push that we all forgot about when she wasn't on every medium of communication every day? ● PH

▶ I just can't understand why **Gaga** would go the Kardashian make-as-much-money-as-possible-while-people-still-seem-to-find-me-fascinating route. She's far beyond saturation right now. ... She used to be — and still could be, if she just takes a breather for a beat — so much more interesting and important than that. But in 2011, I'll

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▶ "Someone Like You"? It's more like there's no one like you, Adele!

remem- ber that pointless "A Very Gaga Thanksgiving" special more than her music. AR

▶ **PJ Harvey** just can't do any wrong. I don't know of anyone cooler (**Gaga** wishes she had one ounce of her originality). DR

▶ Odd that no one has even mentioned **Radiohead** either. They released an album called "King of Limbs" in 2011. Apparently they're not kings of lists. PH

▶ Regarding **Radiohead**, in college, I used to wait in line outside of Tower Records to buy their albums the night of their release and now I can't be bothered to even seek it out to illegally download it. Maybe with age I've just realized that if I have one Radiohead album, I kind of have them all? DR

▶ Just noticed the top four is all women! Was 2011 a banner year for ladies, or is it just because I'm the only dude contributing? PH

▶ It is strange. Where's the rock 'n' roll? DR

▶ The best male-centric indie pop acts out there are in between records. Don't worry, Pat. The guys normally run the show, and they'll be back. HP

▶ Or are all of the biggest male stars these days country, and a little off of our radar? Even the "American Idol" winner this year, **Scotty McCreery**, is a good ol' boy. And, of course, we've lost **Justin Timberlake**, who now thinks he's an actor — which is OK if he keeps it to "SNL." AR

## Metro's Top 5

1 Adele, "21"

2 PJ Harvey, "Let England Shake"

3 Cults, "Cults"

4 The Dø, "Both Ways Open Jaws"

5 Deer Tick, "Divine Providence"

## Music editor Pat Healy's Top 5

**Pat's thoughts:** It was hard to choose only five, which means it was a good year. Though they didn't make my list, singles like Nicki Minaj's "Super Bass" and Foster the People's "Pumped Up Kicks" were so undeniably big. What is so interesting about these songs is that "Kicks" originally surfaced online more than a year before it took off, and Minaj released her album in 2010, too. "Go Outside" by Cults — another fave — originally hit the Web in '10. We could remember '11 as the year of delayed reaction if it wasn't for Adele. The reaction to her was instant.

1 **TIE: Adele,** "21" and **Cults,** "Cults"

2 **Deer Tick,** "Divine Providence"

3 **The Dø,** "Both Ways Open Jaws"

4 **Jay-Z & Kanye West,** "Watch the Throne"

5 **Telekinesis,** "12 Desperate Straight Lines"

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# 5 Television shows that 'Justified' our love of the small screen in '11

**Metro's Top 5**

1. "Parks and Recreation" (NBC)
2. "Breaking Bad" (AMC)
3. "Revenge" (ABC)
4. "New Girl" (Fox)
5. TIE: "The Walking Dead" (AMC); "Community" (NBC); "Justified" (FX)

## Editors' panel

▶ Despite the sad lack of **Don Draper** this year, it's kind of cool that no new **"Mad Men"** episodes meant everyone had the opportunity to become obsessed with other shows, like **"Breaking Bad"** (**Bryan Cranston** is my hero). **AR**

▶ **"Breaking Bad"** has filled my **"Mad Men"** void nicely. It is so undisputedly well done that it feels like this stuff is happening to people you know, rather than on a show you watch. "Oh, man! Too bad my friend Walt got punched in the face at the bar the other night. Oh well. Keep cooking that meth, Walt! ... Wait I don't know these people personally!" **PH**

▶ I guess it's just comforting to know there's always meth distribution to fall back on in case this whole "writing" thing doesn't work out financially. **DR**

BEN LEUNER/AMC

▶ Bryan Cranston, left, and Aaron Paul star in "Breaking Bad."

▶ I haven't watched **"Breaking Bad"** simply because I'm afraid it's too disturbing for me to handle. And I've seen every episode of **"The Sopranos"**! **HP**

▶ Let me just say kudos to **"Revenge"** for landing in the Top 5. This show keeps getting juicier and juicier. And while I don't think any sitcom is as good as **"How I Met Your Mother,"** I'm glad it's **"New Girl"** over **"Whitney."** **ME**

▶ **Zooey Deschanel** has got us right where she wants us in **"New Girl"**! Adorkable? It's not working for me! She's too hot to be a dork. **PH**

▶ I don't want to blame the adorkable factor on **Zooey**. We may have tagged her with that. But I agree — you can't put glasses on a hot, funny girl and pretend she's awkward. **Tina Fey**, you're on notice! **MW**

▶ I love that a hot, funny girl actually gets to play awkward without being painted as a total caricature in **"New Girl."** There are plenty of hot ladies out there who don't have their s— together, whether in their love life or work life or whatever, so the premise totally works for me (see also: **"Bridesmaids"**). Jess is goofy and flawed, and we love her because of it. The fact that she's **Zooey Deschanel** is a bonus. **AR**

▶ I say less Jess, more airtime for the roommates. I think they are the unsung (key word: unsung. STOP SINGING, JESS!) heroes of the show. **DR**

▶ Can we talk about **Ron Swanson (Nick Offerman)** on **"Parks and Recreation"** for a second? Maybe it's because I work among writers and live among skinny musicians but ... does anyone else have a little crush? Maybe? Nevermind — forget this happened. **MW**

▶ No, you're onto something. For all the awful new shows that tried to be about "manly men" (**"Last Man Standing," "Man Up!"**), **Rob Swanson** could kick their asses with a simple look and mustache twitch. Then he'd whittle a wooden figure depicting his triumph in the battle. **AR**

▶ I think we all know someone who has their own inner **Ron Swanson** — that person who resists trends, political correctness and vegetarianism. Personally, he reminds me of my dad, who, being in the Army, would say, "suck it up" as the solution to most any problem. **HP**

## TV editor Amber Ray's Top 5

**Amber's thoughts:** Nobody paints working-class characters quite so nuanced as "Justified" — look at Emmy-winner Margo Martindale's Mags Bennett. Besides, "apple pie" hasn't been given such a notorious connotation since "American Pie."

1. "Justified" (FX)
2. "Louie" (FX)
3. "Breaking Bad" (AMC)
4. "Parks and Recreation" (NBC)
5. "Game of Thrones" (HBO)

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# Capturing Spielberg's 'War Horse'

**The legendary director brings the classic WWI story to the big screen ● What's one of his fail-safe methods for relaxation? ● Yep, there's an app for that**

Steven Spielberg says he hasn't had any free time in the last 36 months. That's not surprising, considering that in 2011 alone, he produced "Super 8," "Transformers: Dark of the Moon," "Cowboys & Aliens," "Real Steel" and several TV projects in addition to directing this season's "The Adventures of Tintin" and "War Horse." But one of the "War Horse" screenwriters, Richard Curtis, is prepared to call Spielberg's bluff about having no time to relax.

"I know that's not true, because I remember ringing you [to Spielberg] up and you saying, 'I can't talk to you because I've just blown up 147 airplanes on my iPad and I'm about to break a record, so can you ring back in about five minutes time?" Curtis says.

"Well, sometimes a good game app will give me about 15 minutes of relaxation," Spielberg sheepishly admits.

Both men are in New York City to promote their adaptation of "War Horse," an epic film based on the 1982 children's book by Michael Morpurgo, which was adapted for the stage in 2007. Spielberg was so excited to take on the project that he began work on it just seven months after seeing the play. He spoke on his techniques for directing live horses, and why World War I shouldn't be forgotten.

**World War I is relatively under-represented in film, as opposed to World War II, the Civil War and Vietnam. How much of this film was about the challenge of depicting World War I on the screen?**

Because I don't consider "War Horse" to be a movie about war, I don't consider it to be a quintessential World War I picture. The war is a backdrop. It provides the necessary drama to pull these characters apart and eventually reunite them. War is more of a catalyst than the cause celebre. … I think that's probably why we don't have an R rating on this film — because I didn't shoot it the way I shot "Saving Private Ryan."

**Did you ever envision that you'd be making kids cry in watching "E.T." to making adults cry in "War Horse"?**

Well, that was not my intention. [Laughs] I didn't get together in the room with [screenwriter] Richard Curtis and we didn't say, 'OK, we're going to tell a story that will make men cry.' I promise we didn't do that. The play made me cry because of the hope that [horse] Joey brings to [his owner] Albert and every human character. I honestly felt a catharsis. We've all seen stories where there's more strength in the bonds between an animal and a person than between people.

**How do you get the performance you need out of the horse?**

I didn't think the horses could do what they turned out to have done in "War Horse." I directed the horses through our horse whisperers. Did I take the horse by the reins and go off to a quiet place to have a conversation with the horse? No. Not once. Did the horses sometimes miss their mark and step out of the key light? Yes. [But] the horses improvised beyond any of our wildest hopes and expectations.

HEIDI PATALANO
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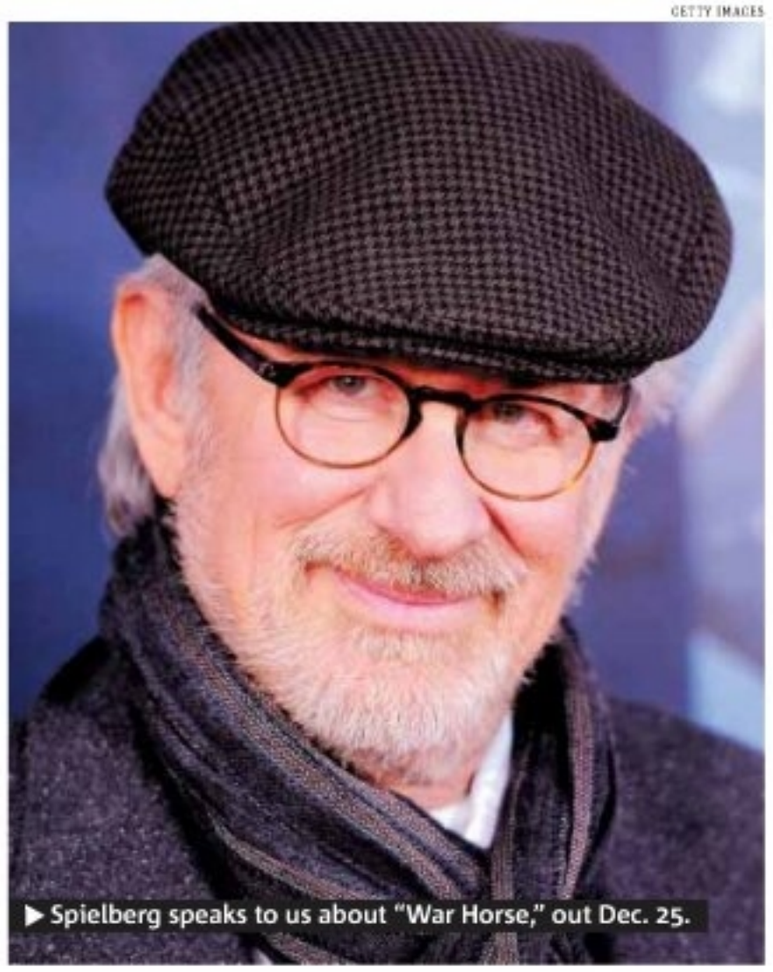
GETTY IMAGES



▶ Spielberg speaks to us about "War Horse," out Dec. 25.

**Q&A**

**What was it about this story that really made you want to make it so quickly?**

When I first went to the see the play, I loved how basic the needs of these people were. The Narracott family merely needs to scratch out an existence from the infertile soil of the farm they are about to lose. That's a strong [and] very, very relevant issue that we've seen before in movies, and that's often moved us. This is really a story about survival.

**Q&A**

COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS PICTURES

▶ "War Horse"

**Why make so many historical films?**

I've always worried that history is so fleeting — that we are so busy with consuming media and the contemporary culture, voraciously gobbling it up, that we have no room to look back. I make a lot of movies about history because I think it's important that we can't see ourselves unless we can see our history. We need that.

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# Wishing Local 44 a very happy New Year — and birthday

RICARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Local 44 (4333 Spruce St., www.local44beerbar.com) has all of your boozy brunch needs covered on New Year's Day.

On Jan. 1, 2009, Local 44 opened its doors in West Philadelphia.

Owned by Leigh Maida and Brendan Hartranft, who also run Memphis Taproom and Resurrection Ale House, the 44th Street beer bistro celebrates its third anniversary on New Year's Day.

"The whole day is just one big hangover cure and celebration," Maida says. "We'll be serving our full brunch menu along with big — and not so big — beers."

The festivities kick off at noon on Sunday, Jan. 1. The brunch menu will be in full swing, and the taps loaded up with several special winter and anniversary edition drafts, including Delaware brewery Dogfish Head's Robert Johnson's Hellhound — an extra-hoppy, 10-percent ale named after the bluesman who, according to legend, sold his soul to the devil down at the crossroads in order to become a famous musician.

They also have big plans for 2012. Despite several construction and permit delays, the Local 44 Bottle Shop will open in the space next to the restaurant in the new year. Carry-out customers will be able choose from a list of nearly 400 bottles, and there will be two cask beers available.

"It will be a great counterpoint to what we currently do at 44," Maida says. "We hope to cultivate a record store or comic shop vibe so it's not just a quick retail space for beer, but a place where folks want to hang out and learn more about the individual beers and breweries we're featuring."

So, when will it open? "I feel mostly confident claiming that our guests will be able to do all of their Easter shopping at the bottle shop this year," Maida assures.

**ELLIOTT SHARP**
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## NYE 2011: Where to go

### Rum Bar

**2005 Walnut St.**
**www.rum-bar.com**
Two options here, depending how much damage control you're up for in 2012: A $10 cover includes a special cocktail menu and midnight champagne toast — or you can opt for the $40 top-shelf open bar.

### Zahav

**237 St. James Place**
**www.zahavrestaurant.com**
The prix fixe menu ($65 per person; add $35 for beverage pairings) includes hummus with spicy beef cheeks and pickled artichokes, squab breast al ha'esh and — New Year's resolutions, help us — chocolate-hazelnut babka with orange-vanilla ice cream.

### Positano Coast

**212 Walnut St.**
**www.positanocoast.net**
An a la carte menu is available all night long, but you're here for the open bar in walking distance to the fireworks: $60 per person from 10:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., DJ included.

### Fork

**306 Market St.**
**www.forkrestaurant.com**
This low-key Old City mainstay really sparkles on special occasions. On NYE, the three-course menu includes dishes such as Maine lobster, roasted pumpkin bisque and crispy lamb confit.

### McGillin's Olde Ale House

**1310 Drury St., mcgillins.com**
A $2 cover gets you into the party, which features a champagne toast and all the sparkly extras you expect from a bar that's been partying since 1860. On New Year's Day, they open at 10 a.m. for all your pre-parade needs (as in, beer).

### The Piazza at Schmidts

**www.eventbrite.com**
If this is your type of thing, there's nowhere else to be: A 20,000-square-foot heated tent, five-hour open bar, 20 service bars and access to Piazza bars and restaurants.

## Get your passport

**Afraid of commitment?** The crew at Drinker's have come up with a solution: Buy one ticket and gain access to a top-shelf open bar at multiple locations. The Old City passport ($85) gets you into Drinker's Tavern, Lucy's Hat Shop and Top Hat; Rittenhouse ($75) includes Drinker's Pub and Noche.
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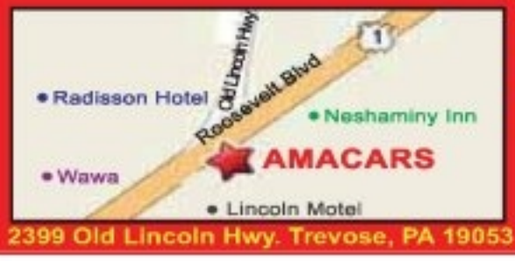

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# How to (finally) keep your New Year's resolutions

## Vague promises to eat healthier or spend less won't work — you have to have a concrete plan of action

Smoking, overeating, not exercising, biting your nails: There are lots of bad habits we'd like to kick in 2012. But while it's easy to make New Year's resolutions, sticking to them is a different matter.

"Resolutions are too vague," says self-help guru Dr. Gregg Jantz, author of "21 Days To Better Eating" and founder of Seattle's holistic healthcare facility A Place of Hope (www.aplaceofhope.com). "We have to take our resolutions and make them into concrete goals. We say we want to lose weight or stop smoking or eat better — but vague resolutions rarely work. Write down a plan of action. Set down your goal."

Dr. Jantz says that there are three tools that will help you stay on track with your resolutions: "Confidence — that 'I can do it' spirit; commitment, that 'I will do it' [spirit] and accountability. Tell someone what you're doing, and get support too — either professional or from friends."

Before tackling any behavioral problems, address any underlying emotional conditions that might be holding you back. "If you're suffering from depression or you have a hidden addiction, it will sabotage your efforts," Dr. Jantz says.

He also advises not waiting until Jan. 1 to start. "Prepare now," he says. "Don't wait till New Year's Eve to get started. Make your plan, and as you go forward, make modifications."

Dr. Jantz says self-forgiveness is important if you fall off the resolution wagon. But self-license is not acceptable. "Ban the excuses," he says. "You can't live by excuses."

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### Why New Year's resolutions fail

- Too many of us make too many resolutions. "A University of Washington study found that 40 percent of people stick to the resolution at the top of their lists," Dr. Jantz says. "Choose no more than two or three."

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▶ You should get going on your New Year's resolutions before this shows up on your calendar.

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Tom Hill
CGA STAFF WRITER

Every three minutes another person falls behind on credit card debt. It's no wonder, since every major credit card company has nearly doubled the minimum monthly payment on consumers' bills. Federal Regulators forced the change because of their concern about the growing mountain of consumer debt, which stands at $2.17 trillion. Many consumers can only pay the minimum payment, which can take up to 30 years to pay off. Now, relief is in sight for millions of Americans.

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# A dream job come true

## Married couple Vicky and James Black play Cinderella and Prince Charming in Disney's 'Dare to Dream'

There's nothing easy about being a cast member of the latest Disney on Ice production, "Dare to Dream." The ensemble of princesses and their suitors have to be dramatic actors, physical comedians and on the lookout for Disney's signature ensembles of meddling mice and sneaky stepsisters while gazing lovingly into each other's eyes — skating backwards.

But for Cinderella and Prince Charming, it's a little easier to look smitten mid-spin. Married couple Vicky and James Black have been playing the iconic roles since the show hit the ice. Previously professional single skaters, they've only skated together.

**If you go**

Disney on Ice Presents "Dare to Dream" runs through Dec. 31 at the Wells Fargo Center. Visit **www.wellsfargocenterphilly.com** for ticket info.

"For us, it works really well — we have a good working relationship," says Vicky about sharing an intense training and travel schedule. "And because we know each other so well, we can read each other's body language." It's something they suspect the audience picks up on. "What we can do is take our love and make it believable, and if we're doing our jobs, we hope people do come away with that," says James."

Their favorite part of the workday? "The moment where I come out for the ball and we lock eyes for that first time together — for us, that's the best part," says Vicky.

**MONICA WEYMOUTH**
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Programs vary by campus

# MIT announces platform for free online courses

**The university's MITx program allows discussions, self-test tools and online labs — but not an MIT degree**

ZOONAR

▶ MIT's platform will be available for use by any university after its launch.

MIT is planning to launch an open platform for free online classes, complete with certification for those who demonstrate mastery of their topics. The university announced "MITx" earlier this month, though it doesn't plan to launch the experimental prototype version of the platform until spring 2012.

MIT already has a robust free online library of its course materials called OpenCourseWare. The 10-year-old site includes 2,100 MIT courses and has been used by more than 100 million people. Anybody can use it to view MIT class lecture notes, assignments and solutions, image galleries and, in some cases, even lecture videos.

MITx will put more structure around some of the school's online class content, including student-to-student discussions, self-assessment tools and access to online laboratories. After it releases the platform for its own site, it will allow any learning institution to use it for its own course offerings.

Students who complete courses will be eligible for certification, but don't get too excited at the prospect of hanging an MIT degree on your wall. MIT isn't going to attach its name to the certificate. Rather, it plans to create a not-for-profit body with a different name that will offer certification for a "modest fee."

Meanwhile, universities have been inching toward legitimizing online learning. In May, New York University began allowing students from the tuition-free, online-only University of the People to use their online credentials to apply to study at its Abu Dhabi campus.

SARAH KESSLER FOR Mashable
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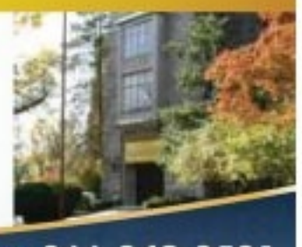

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## BRAIN BUSTER SUDOKU

### LEVEL: VERY HARD

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## Horoscope

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19**. If you find yourself badly in need of a small but urgent favor, go to someone you help all the time. Anyone of this ilk would be eager to do what he or she can for you.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** A rather big opportunity could come in a small package. Someone you know socially who is involved in a new enterprise might want to bring you in on the action.

♓ Pisces Feb. **20-March 20.** In order to have a chance for good results, don't broadcast your ambitious intentions. Take positive measures to accomplish your aims and speak only after your efforts are fulfilled.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Faith is based on believing in something about which little or no proof exists. The more faith you place in someone, the more you'll think that she or he will come through for you.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Although you aren't apt to seek out competitive situations, you aren't likely to dodge them either. Once you enter a race, however, you'll thoroughly enjoy the challenge.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you don't feel you are being weighed down by a difficult situation, the more open you'll be to suggestions on handling one. Someone will have the perfect solution for you.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Things will go more smoothly when implementing an important change if you handle any complications that arise one at a time. It'll reduce your chances of bungles and gaffes.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Because you'll enjoy testing your physical skills as well as your mental abilities, try to find and participate in a fun activity that would challenge both your muscles and your brainpower.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Be sure to dot every "i" and cross every "t," especially in a critical matter that you're attempting to finalize. All those small details can be of greater significance than usual.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** You're likely to be acutely aware of the shortcomings of others, but you should take strides to offer your insights in the form of constructive criticism, not put-downs.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** The possibilities for making personal gains look very good. Although many people might not consider yours a hefty haul, it could still be a significant amount to you.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** You'll be far better equipped to handle assignments of a mental nature than you will be attempting most physical tasks. Thus, delegate the grunt work while personally seeing to the matters that require the little gray cells.

**Across**
1 Sheik colleague
5 Noncoms
9 Girder (2 wds.)
14 __ fide
15 Quartet minus one
16 About, datewise
17 Casual wear(2 wds.)
19 Making do with
20 Listening device
21 Samovars
22 Ginger or cloves
23 Wished and hoped
25 "Godfather" co-star
26 Military addr.
27 Urgent
30 Raring to go
33 Skylark maker
34 Boar's mate
36 Team cheers
37 Meter reader
38 Freighter hazard
39 Mexican Mrs.
40 Caravan halt
41 Fudge flavoring
42 Car stopper
44 Flour holder
45 66 and I-80
46 Buried the hatchet
50 Castaways' refuges
52 Liability
53 Not even one
54 Ms. DeGeneres
55 Slim possibility (2 wds.)
57 Hangar occupant
58 Field
59 Speckled horse
60 Purplish flower
61 Take it easy
62 __ Sedgwick of the screen

**Down**
1 Waned
2 Wisdom tooth
3 Habituate
4 Charlotte of "Bananas"
5 Hi-fi system
6 Piano size
7 Cookie sheets
8 Distress call
9 Swelling reducer(2 wds.)
10 Beachwear
11 Mr. Sevareid
12 Complexion woe
13 __ wheels (sporty rims)
18 On edge
22 Pert
24 Long sighs
25 Cattle stalls
27 Block-shaped
28 Cousin of PDQ
29 Laze around
30 Returns org.
31 Lemony-tasting
32 Sear a steak
33 Grounds
35 Like some hours
37 Tearooms
38 Posse's quarry
40 More frequently
41 Jolly feeling
43 Garfield's girlfriend
44 Wild feline
46 Big celebrations
47 Pester
48 Country parson
49 Helen, in Spanish
50 Pandora's boxful
51 Mattress support
52 Be brave enough
54 Smog monitoring grp.
55 Like the horizon
56 Hot Springs st.

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

**Solution to last week's crossword**

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| B | A | L | E | ■ | E | L | E | N | A | ■ | S | T | E | M |
| O | L | L | A | ■ | W | E | S | ■ | L | I | L | I | E | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | S | P | A | T | ■ | O | M | N | I | ■ | ■ | ■ |
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| E | R | G | O | ■ | A | M | A | H | ■ | S | I | G | H | S |
| S | T | O | C | K | C | A | R | ■ | R | I | V | E | T | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | E | E | K | S | ■ | B | O | C | A | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| K | U | B | L | A | I | ■ | O | L | D | ■ | N | O | S | E |
| O | R | E | O | ■ | N | I | X | I | E | ■ | H | O | L | D |
| N | E | A | T | ■ | G | L | E | N | N | ■ | O | P | I | E |
| G | Y | M | S | ■ | ■ | K | N | I | T | ■ | E | S | P | N |

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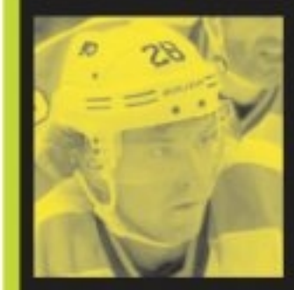
Inside:

**2011 was the Year of the Philly Choke**
PAGE 28



**Looking ahead to the New Year**
PAGE 31

**Metro's Sports Figure of the Year:**

**LeSean McCoy**

# Hi, my name is ... Slim Shady

- McCoy shattering records, going for rushing title
- Back credits coaches, offensive line for everything

Oh wow.

Those two words sum up the season that LeSean McCoy is having for the Eagles. So it's only fitting those are the same words the star running back chose to utter when informed he was being named Metro's Athlete of the Year.

McCoy is one of the good guys in the Eagles' locker room. He's friendly, approachable, witty — and incredibly humble. When asked to rank himself among the elite athletes in Philly, McCoy deferred.

"I don't get too wrapped up in that," he said. "There's a lot of athletes in Philly. You got baseball, basketball and the guys on my team are some of the best athletes in sports today."

## McCoy credits Mudd

While LeSean McCoy is quick to praise his line for all his success, he also points to an offseason personnel move as the biggest reason for his boom.

"I think the big addition was getting Howard Mudd," McCoy said. "With Howard Mudd on the staff he's been helping us out a lot. We've been running the ball, I think the type of style he brings, with the faster linemen, you know getting him here has helped me out. It fits the scheme and the type of player I am."

METRO

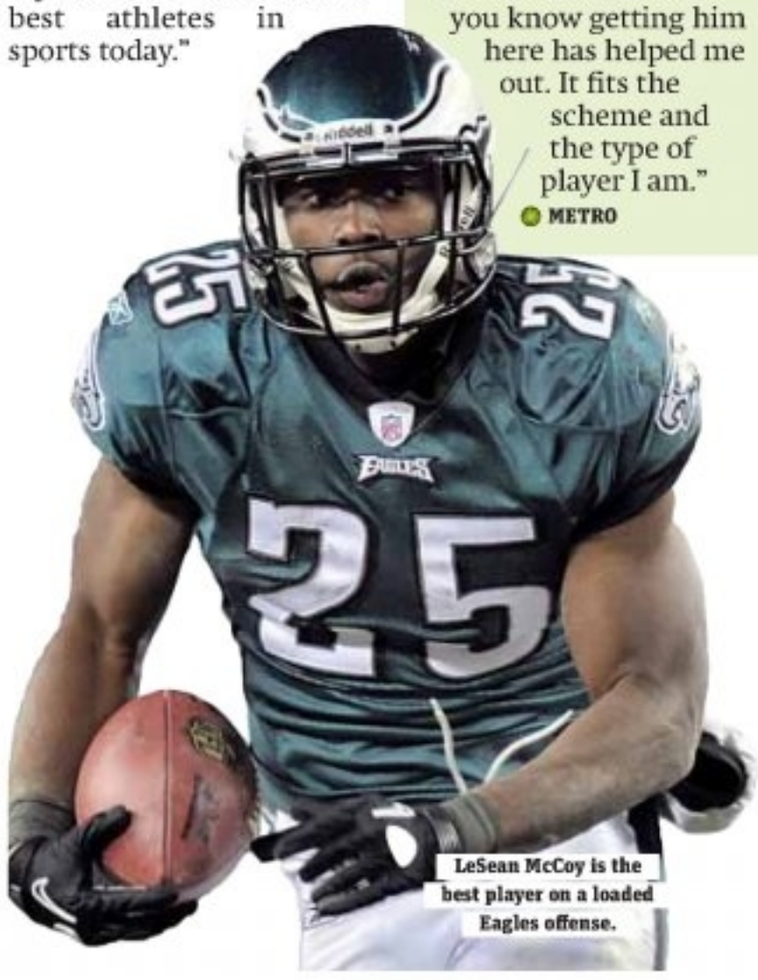
Still, it's hard to ignore what McCoy has accomplished this season. He's already shattered the Eagles' single-season touchdown record and is on pace to capture the NFL's rushing title — a first for an Eagles back since 1949.

"It would mean a lot to me," McCoy said. "As a player coming into this league, I never imagined that I would be up for a rushing title or things like that. Also, it would be a great honor to show my offensive linemen how much I appreciate them for blocking so well for me this year."

McCoy plans to show that appreciation by purchasing gifts for the boys up front. He just has to empty his piggy bank first.

"I'm waiting until the end of the year, get them something nice," McCoy said. "Trying to save my money up."

MIKE GREGER
mgreger@metro.us



LeSean McCoy is the best player on a loaded Eagles offense.

### In the running

McCoy wasn't the only personality we considered:

- **Claude Giroux:** At press time, he led the NHL in scoring. The 23-year-old led the Flyers in scoring last season, and his highlight-reel goals speak for themselves. Ask Jagr.
- **Roy Halladay:** The 2010 Cy Young winner finished second in 2011 voting after going 19-6. In two years here, Doc has established himself as one of the all-time great Phillies.

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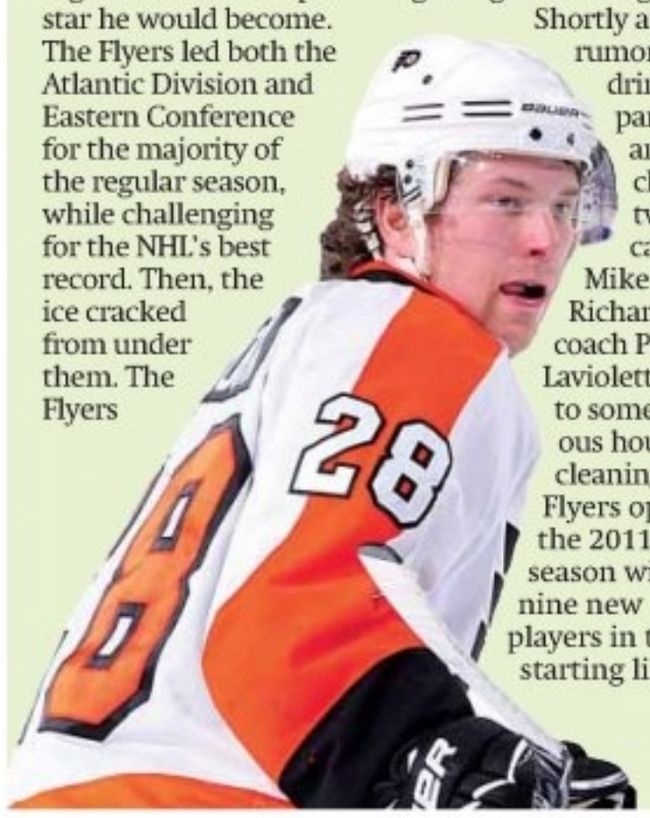
# 2011: Year of the Choke

**Flyers, Phillies, Eagles left much to be desired in this title-hungry town ◗ Orange and Black started hot, then fell hard ◗ Phils turned in one of biggest collapses in Philly sports history ◗ Birds still figuring it out**

## Victim No. 1: The Flyers

### From Cup to cleanup

Coming off a Stanley Cup appearance, expectations were very high for the Orange and Black. Early on, they looked unstoppable. Jeff Carter was scoring goals at will and Claude Giroux was showing flashes of the superstar he would become. The Flyers led both the Atlantic Division and Eastern Conference for the majority of the regular season, while challenging for the NHL's best record. Then, the ice cracked from under them. The Flyers stumbled down the stretch and were left with the No. 2 seed. They were just good enough to win a first-round playoff matchup with Buffalo, before getting completely dominated by Boston. The Flyers tied a playoff record with seven in-game goalie changes.



Shortly after, rumors of drinking parties and a clash between captain Mike Richards and coach Peter Laviolette led to some serious house cleaning. The Flyers opened the 2011-12 season with nine new players in their starting lineup.

## Victim No. 2: The Phillies

### Meet me in St. Louis

The most-hyped Phillies season to date started last winter when they shocked the world and inked ace Cliff Lee. In the regular season, the 2011 Phils didn't disappoint. The team captured its fifth straight NL East crown, they set a new franchise record for wins in a season (102), Charlie Manuel established the all-time mark for wins by a Phils skipper (646) and they entered the postseason with the best record in baseball and home-field advantage. It wasn't *if* the Phils were going to win the World Series, it was *when*. The parade route was already mapped out. Then, the Phils drew the red-hot St. Louis Cardinals in the NLDS. Lee got rocked in Game 2 and the offense went stagnant in Game 5, as the Phils failed to score a run and were eliminated. What was supposed to be the most historic season in club history went out with a whimper. Some fans call it the worst collapse in Philly sports history.

## Victim No. 3: The Eagles

### It was all a Dream

At press time, the Eagles' epitaph had yet to be written. They still clung to faint playoff hopes — NFC East title hopes, no less — with two games remaining. However, the hype machine on this team began after a shortened offseason saw them go on a free-agent spending spree and were dubbed "The Dream Team" by Vince Young. But that dream season quickly turned into a nightmare following a Week 1 win in St. Louis. The Eagles looked like a disjointed bunch of underachievers as they reeled off four straight losses. Mike Vick battled injury after injury (and chucked more interceptions than TDs when healthy); Nnamdi Asomugha was mediocre at best; DeSean Jackson briefly held out, was benched twice and came under fire for looking disinterested; and novice defensive coordinator Juan Castillo looked lost on the sideline. Things got so bad during a blowout loss to New England that fans started a "Fire Andy" chant at the Linc.

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# It wasn't all bad, was it? Best moments of 2011

**Sixers exceeded expectations, got playoff win Phillies bailed out by very unlikely ace McCoy shattered franchise record for touchdowns**

Yes, there was much disappointment in 2011. From failed expectations to delusions of grandeur, it was a rough year to be a Philadelphia sports fan.

However, there were also some feel-good moments that will never be forgotten. The Sixers — the one team who probably exceeded all expectations — lead our annual list of the best moments from 2011.

## SWEET LOU MAKES IT RAIN

Lou Williams' three-pointer with 8.9 seconds showing gave the Sixers an improbable 86-82 win over the juggernaut Miami Heat in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

Sure the Sixers lost the series a few days later, but Williams' shot helped the Sixers avoid a sweep and was emblematic of their overachieving 2011 season.

## VALDEZ WINS MARATHON

On a chilly May night at Citizens Bank Park, the Phillies and Reds went through 16 pitchers, 28 hits and nine runs in a 19-inning marathon.

The Phillies eventually won the game, 5-4. But the highlight came in the 19th when utility infielder Wilson Valdez took the mound and pitched a scoreless frame to nab his first career win.

Valdez

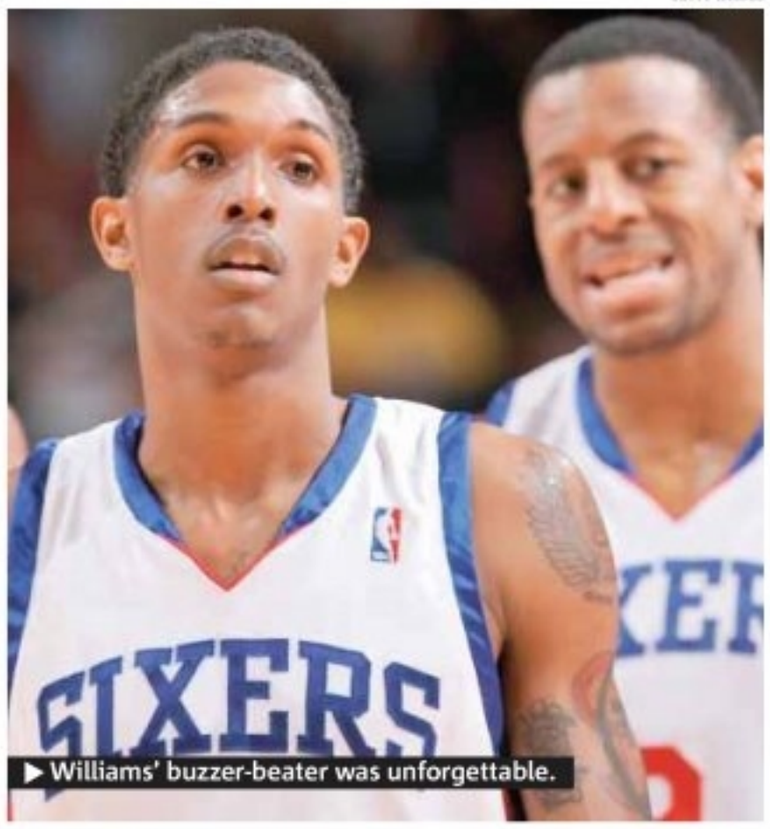
Valdez, who played the first 18 innings at second base, was calm under pressure and even shook off his catcher on one pitch. The fans gave him a roaring ovation that night and the next day when he came to the plate.

## SHADY SETS NEW TOUCHDOWN MARK

LeSean McCoy has been the lone bright spot in a mostly disappointing Eagles season. The star running back could be on this list multiple times, but we'll take last week's performance against the Jets.

McCoy ran for 102 yards and scored three touchdowns, giving him 20 for the season. That number broke the franchise record for most TDs in a single season. He was saluted by the Eagles with a tribute video after his second one broke it and received a nice standing ovation from the Linc crowd. METRO

GETTY IMAGES


Williams' buzzer-beater was unforgettable.

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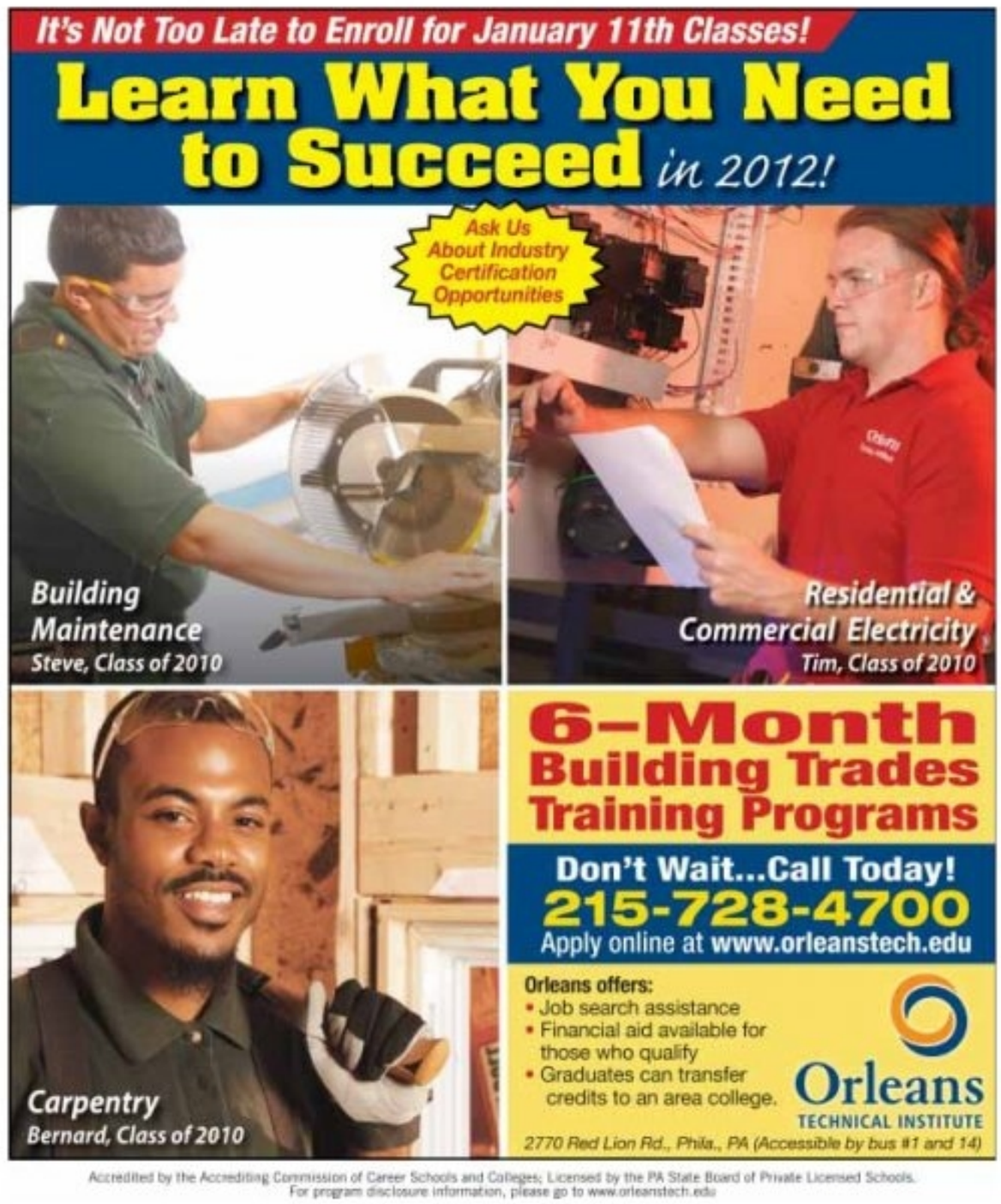
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# One letter makes huge difference for Flyers, Eagles

**Matt Read hearing cheers while Andy Reid gets booed ◗ Flyers rookie making impact on Laviolette's club ◗ Team faces NY Rangers on Jan. 2**

What a difference a vowel makes for two names pronounced the same.

Matt Read … Yay. Andy Reid … Boo.

Their slim playoff hopes aside, there's little love shown in this town to the man who has been coaching the Eagles for the past 13 years whose name is spelled R-e-i-d.

On the other hand, fans are wild about the Flyers' 25-year-old rookie forward who has come from nowhere to provide Peter Laviolette with an unexpected scoring option whose name is spelled R-e-a-d.

"I never really thought about that," said Read. "He's certainly had an impact in the community. The one letter I guess does make a difference. But it's a different sport."

Turning to the ice, after a sensational start the former Bemidji State (Minn.) star admits he's been pressing a bit to regain the scoring touch. Since Nov. 21 (at press time), he had just two goals and four assists, which he partially attributes to the opposition paying closer attention to him.

"Early in the season I was getting lucky bounces, being in the right spot at the right time," said Read, a native of Ilderton, Ontario, Canada. "Now, I'm facing a bit of adversity. Everyone goes through that kind of stretch once in a while. Hopefully, I can get out of this."

Despite his recent slump, Read seems to have secured a permanent spot in Laviolette's lineup. But don't tell him that.

"I don't feel safe yet," said Read. "Every day at practice or in games I feel I have to give 100 percent. There are no guarantees in life."

While things are bound to have their ups and downs from here on out for this Read, Flyers fans should take some comfort in one thing: At least he didn't say he had to do a better job.

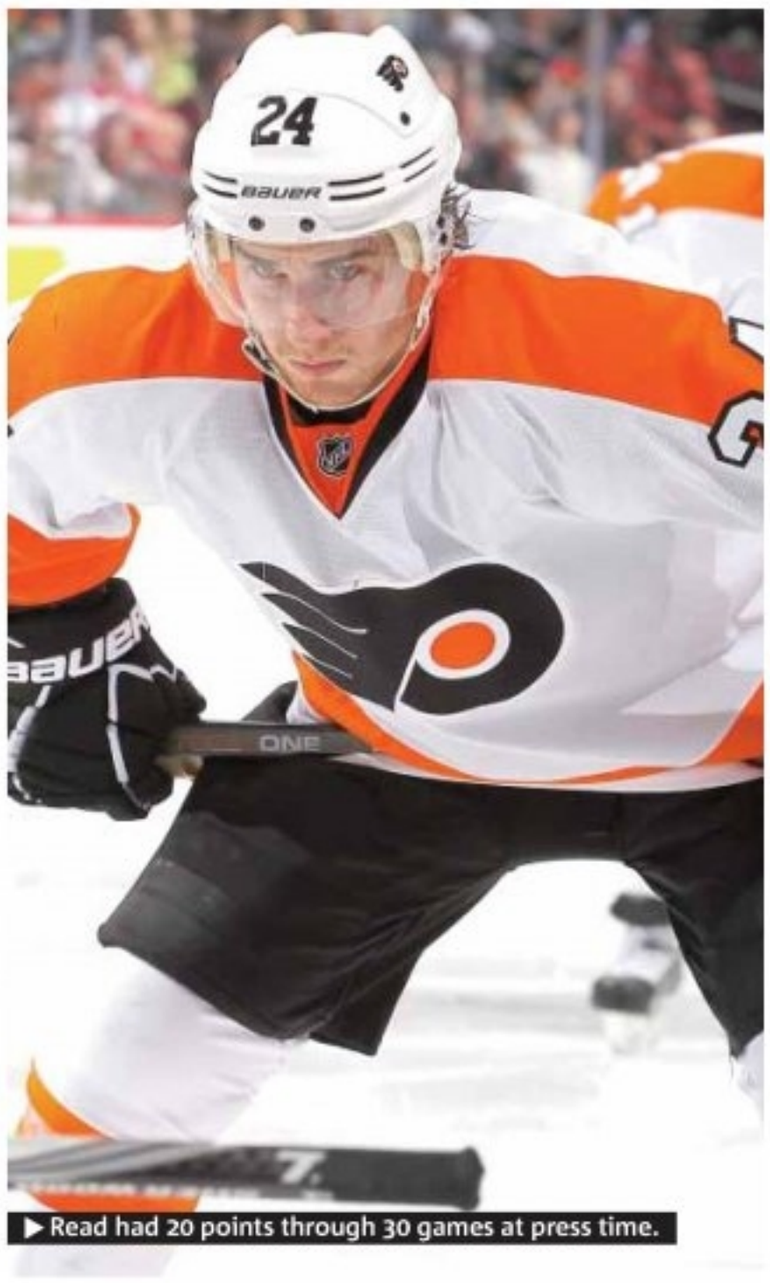
Unlike … well, you know who.

**JON MARKS**
sports@metro.us

### Winter Classic

- **The deal:** Flyers vs. Rangers, Jan. 2, 1 p.m. at Citizens Bank Park in fifth annual NHL Winter Classic.
- **Any tickets?** If you weren't lucky enough to get a pair at face value from the lottery, then grab your wallet. The average price on StubHub was around $600.
- **Alumni game** will take place Dec. 31 at 1 p.m. Eric Lindros and Bobby Clarke are both participating.

GETTY IMAGES



▶ Read had 20 points through 30 games at press time.

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**Belmont Academy Charter School**
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**907 41st Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104**
The Belmont Charter Schools' Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals or to accept the proposal that it finds, in its sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.
**A walk-through meeting is scheduled for Jan. 4, 2012 at 2pm at 907 N. 41st Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. All questions should be submitted via email prior to the walk-through to Kelly.Smith@cea-philly.org.**
All proposals must be submitted no later than 10 am on Jan. 18, 2012. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to the Belmont Academy Charter School and be clearly marked: Food Service Management Proposal.

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